

(Cover this writing before making copies. This information could be copied on back of the coloring page for kids to take home, to aid in telling parents and family about what they learned in Art Discovery today. There is additional information here that will aid in the optional word search assignment—Jan Dutch Artist of “the Golden Age”. DO NOT USE COLORING PAGE FOR PROJECT!)

The Artist in His Studio

Also referred to as

The Art of Painting

Johannes Vermeer

(c. 1666-1667)

During World War II, the notorious German leader, Adolf Hitler, once owned this painting. Hitler bought the painting for a museum he planned to open after he won the war. However, the Germans lost World War II. This painting, along with thousands of other valuable art treasures, was found in a salt mine in Austria at the end of World War II, after Hitler had died.

Long before Hitler or World War II, Vermeer (*who was penniless when he died*) willed this painting to his wealthy mother-in-law, to help pay back some of the money he owed her. After that, the painting was lost for almost 200 years. When it finally appeared again, the painting was credited to a different artist. Eventually, the painting’s identity was straightened out, and now, after changing hands many times, the painting hangs in a Museum in Vienna, Austria.

This is one of Vermeer’s last paintings. It shows an artist (*possibly Vermeer*) painting a picture of a model who is holding a trumpet in one hand and a book in the other. The model represents either Fame or History. It is believed the model represents *Clio*, the Greek Muse of history. In Greek myth, the nine sister goddesses who encouraged and protected the Arts and Learning were called *Muses*. They were daughters of Zeus and the Titaness Mnemosyne, goddess of memory. *Clio* is described as a girl with a crown of laurel leaves (*symbolizing Fame*) holding a trumpet and a gold-covered book (*symbolizing History*).

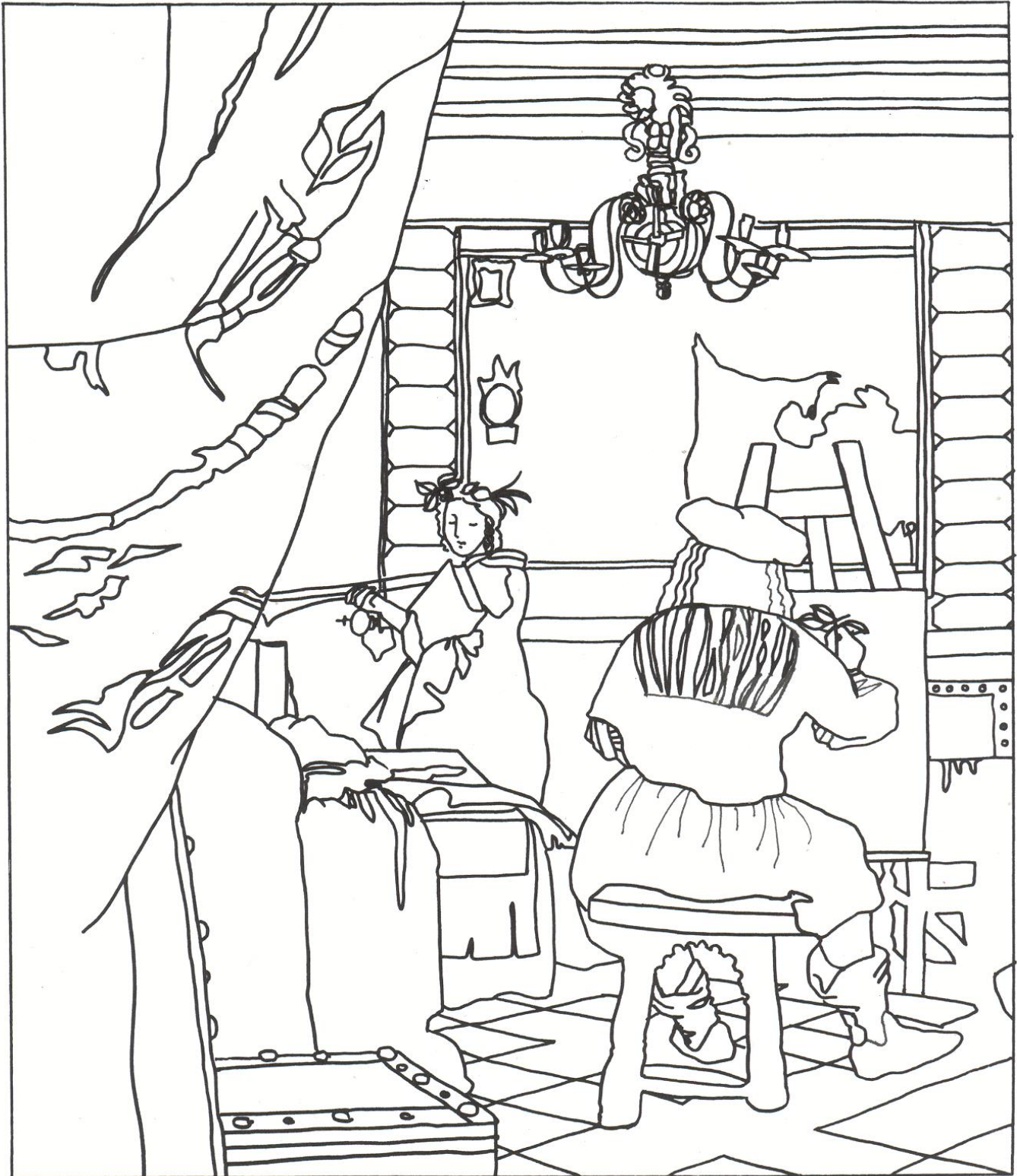
Behind the model hangs a map of the Netherlands—Vermeer’s birthplace and a land that is famous for its arts. The more sophisticated Dutch of the 17th century hung maps on the walls of their homes to give the impression that they were educated about the world. The acknowledged world seemed to have grown throughout the 16th century and people wanted to give the impression that they knew all about the exciting places that Dutch ships now traveled for trade.

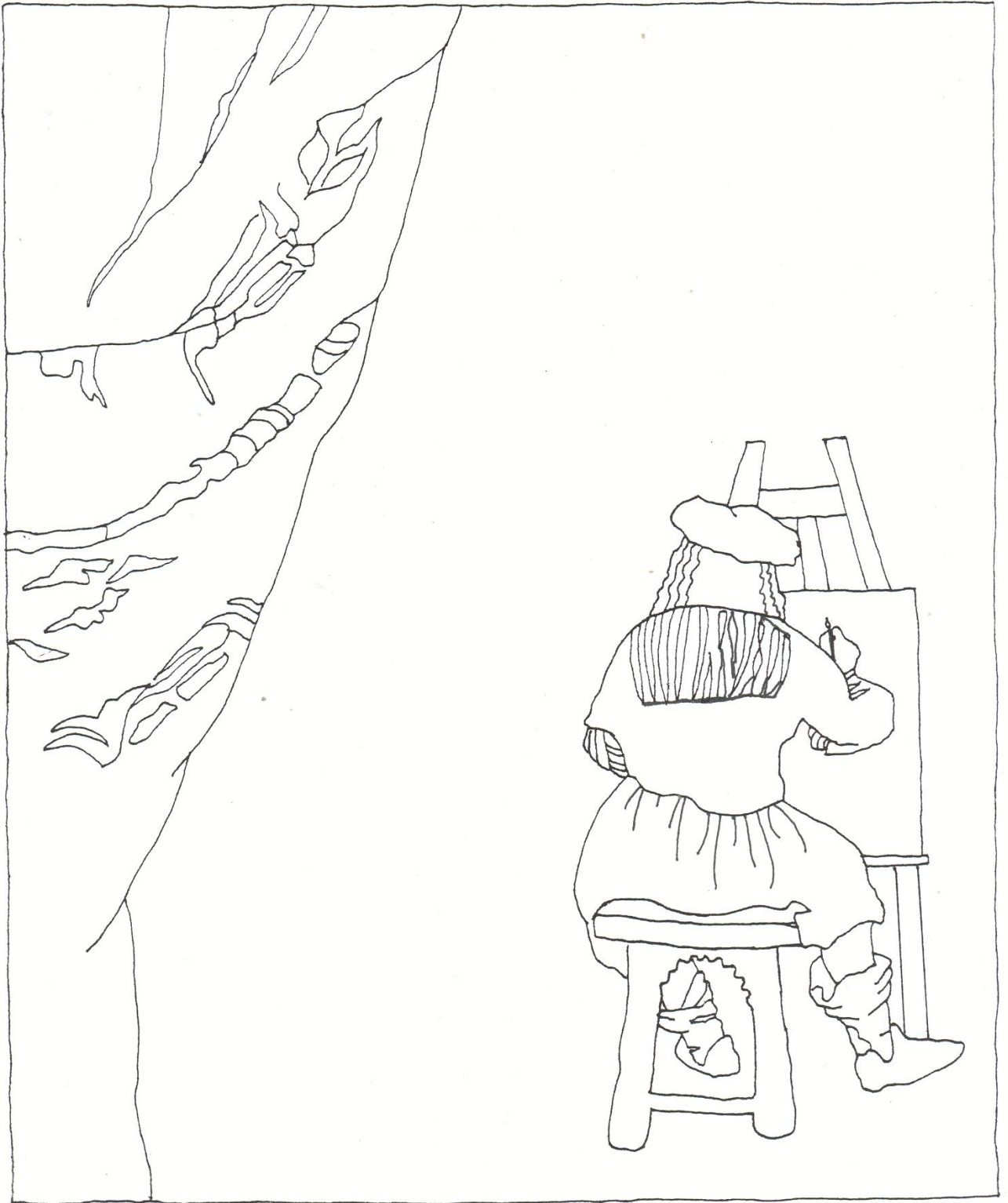
The artist is dressed in clothing that was out of style, even in the 1600’s. Vermeer has dressed him in an “historical” costume to help symbolize that History should be the artist’s inspiration. Elegant fabrics lay crumpled on the table, along with a large mask, which may symbolize the artist’s historical inspiration and training in the art of the *Classical Age*. (*The Classical Age is considered the time of history when the ancient Empires of Greece and Rome existed.*) It is also an indication that the artist is a master painter. Drawing or painting from plaster casts of ancient Greek or Roman sculpture was once a basic requirement of an artist’s training.

If you look closely at the artist’s painting, you can also see a *maul stick* or *painter’s stick* on the canvas. This was a tool many artists used to steady their hand for detailed work. It kept the hand away from the wet paint as the artist added details, and protected the picture. Artists used oil paint at this time, which took several days to dry; so many areas of a painting might be wet during one sitting.

The Artist in His Studio

Jan Vermeer





What does this artist see? Draw and color your own creative idea of what he is going to paint!

NAME _____

Jan Vermeer
Or
Johannes van der Meer—
Dutch Artist of "The Golden Age"

C	I	T	T	E	R	N	N	C	A	M	M	D	E	L	F	T	H
C	J	M	A	U	L	S	T	I	C	K	A	I	N	D	O	W	O
I	O	W	I	N	D	O	W	R	S	F	P	J	I	H	C	E	L
T	S	P	R	O	S	U	S	P	M	G	M	O	L	N	A	K	L
R	L	A	I	F	T	E	D	N	A	J	A	S	E	T	T	I	A
O	I	N	W	T	F	D	C	Y	L	O	K	E	W	E	H	A	N
N	G	M	A	E	C	L	B	I	L	S	E	P	H	L	A	H	D
Y	H	I	N	E	Y	H	R	I	D	I	R	H	K	E	R	M	I
E	T	J	R	I	A	M	E	Z	E	O	S	B	E	V	I	Y	R
L	J	O	S	R	G	N	T	R	T	U	F	U	W	E	N	L	E
L	H	K	E	P	I	A	C	A	A	L	W	R	T	N	A	I	G
O	G	M	L	W	I	N	M	A	I	F	M	G	E	R	J	O	A
W	A	D	O	L	F	H	I	T	L	E	R	E	J	M	O	N	S
C	C	L	I	O	W	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	O	U	S	A	K

Circle the answers to the following questions in the word search above. The answers can be found in the artist handout information and on the back of *The Artist in His Studio* coloring page. Answers run horizontal, vertical, and two answers run diagonal.

1. The city and country where Vermeer was born and lived
2. This man bought *The Artist in His Studio* for a museum he planned to open after World War II
3. Vermeer had this many children
4. A kitchen item used for pouring liquids, seen in two of Vermeer's paintings, and often used in Still-life arrangements
5. Stringed musical instrument seen in *The Love Letter*
6. Name for the Greek Muse of History
7. First name of Vermeer's wife, who was the daughter of a brick maker
8. Vermeer owned a set of chairs with carved heads of this animal on the backrests
9. This Frenchman discovered Vermeer's paintings after the artist had been forgotten for 200 years
10. Vermeer is considered one of the best painters who ever lived because of his infinitely painstaking work with effects of _____ and shadow
11. With series of lenses, the _____ obscura isolates and focuses on a subject with breathtaking clarity
12. Vincent van Gogh found it interesting that in most of Vermeer's paintings he chose to use a combination of dull blue, light gray and this color
13. Delft was an important center for this group of well respected professionals, whose work was considered something between a science and an art
14. Vermeer is considered one of the "Little Dutchmen" artists because of his attention to
15. In Vermeer's time, the merchant class of Holland had become newly _____
16. Common exterior building detail which Jan Vermeer often used to light his interiors
17. Tool to steady an artist's hand while painting detail work _____

ANSWER SHEET—challenge 4th and 5th graders with this optional extra credit assignment, which you can offer a reward for, if handed in on your next visit. Kids will retain more information and learn things you could not cover. Hand out copies of *The Golden Age of Dutch Art—Who was Jan (or Johannes) van der Meer? (Pg. 1 only)* and the *Glossary* page. Consider answering questions #2 and #6 ahead of time (*maybe make a point of having them note the information when you present it*), unless you additionally pass out *The Artist in His Studio* picture *with* its information on the back side of the drawing. Kids would *still* need to *search* for the two answers (2 - ADOLF HITLER & 6 - CLIO) decide to give them the answers.

Jan Vermeer Dutch Artist of "The Golden Age"

C	I	T	T	E	R	N					M	D	E	L	F	T	H
C		M	A	U	L	S	T	I	C	K	A						O
I		W	I	N	D	O	W		S		P	J			C		L
T		P							M		M	O			A		L
R	L		I						A		A	S			T		A
O	I			T					L		K	E		E	H		N
N	G				C				L		E	P		L	A		D
Y	H					H			D		R	H		E	R		
E	T				A		E		E		S	B		V	I		
L				R				R	T			U		E	N	L	
L			E						A			R		N	A	I	
O		M							I			G					O
W	A	D	O	L	F	H	I	T	L	E	R	E					N
	C	L	I	O		P	R	O	S	P	E	R	O	U	S		

Circle the answers to the following questions in the word search above. The answers can be found in the artist handout information and on the back of *The Artist in His Studio* coloring page. Answers run horizontal, vertical, and two run diagonal.

1. The city and country where Vermeer was born and lived DELFT, HOLLAND
2. This man bought *The Artist in His Studio* for a museum he planned to open after World War II ADOLF HITLER
3. Vermeer had this many children ELEVEN
4. A kitchen item used for pouring liquids, seen in two of Vermeer's paintings PITCHER
5. Stringed musical instrument seen in *The Love Letter* CITTERN
6. Name for the Greek Muse of History CLIO
7. First name of Vermeer's wife CATHARINA
8. Vermeer owned a set of chairs with carved heads of this animal on the backrest LION
9. This Frenchman discovered Vermeer's paintings after the artist had been forgotten for 200 years JOSEPH BURGER
10. Vermeer is considered one of the best painters who ever lived because of his infinitely painstaking work with effects of _____ and shadow LIGHT
11. With series of lenses, the _____ obscura isolates and focuses on a subject with breathtaking clarity CAMERA
12. Vincent van Gogh found it interesting that in most of Vermeer's paintings he chose to use a combination of dull blue, light gray and this color CITRON YELLOW or YELLOW
13. Delft was an important center for this group of well respected professionals, whose work was considered something between a science and an art MAPMAKERS
14. Vermeer is considered one of the "Little Dutchmen" artists because of his attention to SMALL DETAILS
15. In Vermeer's time, the merchant class of Holland had become newly _____ PROSPEROUS
16. Common exterior building detail which Jan Vermeer often used to light his interiors WINDOW
17. Tool to steady an artist's hand while painting detail work MAUL STICK

(Cover this writing before making copies. Information could be copied on back of the coloring page for kids to take home, to aid in telling parents and family about what they learned in Art Discovery today. Hand out coloring book page when you discuss *The Kitchen Maid* so that kids can examine the picture and draw in the broken window correctly on the page. DO NOT USE COLORING PAGE FOR PROJECT!)

Maidservant Pouring Milk

Also referred to as

The Kitchen Maid

18" x 16 ¼"

(Circa 1655-1660)

Although we know little about this artist, we *do know* that Vermeer was extraordinarily talented! His paintings are some of the rarest, most sought-after art treasures today.

We are in the corner of an old 1600's Dutch kitchen. We see the cook pouring out creamy milk for a typical Dutch 17th century bread-and-milk lunch. Vermeer was a master at creating objects with TEXTURE in his paintings. Artists create two types of texture—*Actual texture*, the type you can actually *feel* (like a sculpture) and *Implied texture*, the type visually and realistically created by a great painter magician. Like a magician, artists use tools such as color, shadow, highlight, or pattern to help them create the *impression* of actual texture in their paintings or drawings.

It's fun to look at each object in the painting and enjoy the "feel" of it (texture), although we cannot really "touch" these objects. Vermeer has created several different types of implied texture here—hard, crusty bread, a coarse or rough work dress, smooth and bumpy ceramics on the table, and a polished, shiny metal bucket. The distinctive patterns of each basket's weave imply similar rough, bumpy, or lumpy textures.

The entire back wall of the scene is softly illuminated and sets off the dark edge of the woman's shoulder and skirt so clearly that it is easy to tell exactly where she is standing—halfway between the viewer and the wall. Except for two nails that have been painted with meticulous care, and some nail holes, the wall is blank. On the floor, to the right and behind the maid, is a wooden foot-warmer. The baseboard of the wall is covered with tiles.

Several typical details can be found in Vermeer paintings. First, he mostly painted indoor scenes, which usually show one or two women at a simple task, such as reading, writing a letter, sewing, playing a musical instrument or pouring milk. Vermeer often included a covered table in his scenes, as well as a window on the left, with bright daylight dancing and bouncing off the people in the room. One of the panes of the window in this scene is broken. **Can you draw a line in the correct windowpane to add this detail to the scene?**

Many art critics over the years have stated that this picture was probably Vermeer's way of celebrating the glory and value of hard work. Because this was one of his earlier paintings, experts today believe that the painting was created simply for Vermeer's enjoyment of painting light in a very different type of room. Because there is so little known about the artist, there are many questions about his thoughts, feelings and ideas that will never be answered for sure.

Maidservant Pouring Milk

Also referred to as

The Kitchen Maid

